

## **2000 FFA Hall of Fame Inductee**

### **Dr. Walter T. Bjoraker**

Dr. Walter T. Bjoraker was born in Steele County Minnesota, the youngest of 13 children. He grew up on a dairy farm and graduated from the Owatonna High School. During that time he became deeply involved in the FFA, serving as local chapter president, district president, and state secretary. He earned the Minnesota Farmer Degree and graduated valedictorian of his high school class and in 1942 earned a Bachelor of Science Degree with distinction from the University of Minnesota, majoring in Agricultural Education. He received his Masters Degree in 1948 and his Doctorate in 1952, both from Minnesota.

Walter taught vocational agriculture at Cromwell and Harmony, Minnesota high schools prior to enlisting in the Army Air Corps. Following the war, he taught vocational agriculture in Rochester, Minnesota, from 1946-48. He served as Assistant State Supervisor of Agricultural Education and Secretary of the Minnesota FFA. He joined the faculty of the University of Wisconsin/Madison in 1950 as an assistant professor of Agricultural Education. He served as department chairman for 20 years. Until his retirement in 1984, he taught undergraduates in Agricultural Education, was adviser to the Collegiate FFA, and served as major professor to over 200 Masters and 50 Ph.D candidates. In 1975, the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences presented him the Merit Award for outstanding student advising.

Walter was the recipient of the Honorary State and American Farmer Degrees, the Wisconsin FFA Blue and Gold Award, the Wisconsin FFA Distinguished Service Award, the Central States Agricultural Education Seminar Award for Dedicated Service to Agricultural Education, and the WAVAI Special Citation for Service to Agricultural Education.

He is a member of Bethel Lutheran Church and is active in its Christian Mens' Fellowship Organization. Walter and his wife Delores have three children, Barbara, Gary, and Gordon, and three grandchildren.